



# NEWS

**Federal Communications Commission**  
**445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.**  
**Washington, D. C. 20554**

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News media Information 202 / 418-0500  
TTY 202 / 418-2555  
Fax-On-Demand 202 / 418-2830  
Internet: <http://www.fcc.gov>  
<ftp.fcc.gov>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
May 10, 2010

NEWS MEDIA CONTACT:  
Mark Wigfield at (202) 418-0253  
Email: [mark.wigfield@fcc.gov](mailto:mark.wigfield@fcc.gov)

## **FCC RELEASES TELEPHONE PENETRATION BY INCOME REPORT**

Washington, D.C. – The Federal Communications Commission today released a report presenting data on the percentage of households with telephone service on a state-by-state basis for various income categories. The report presents telephone penetration statistics based on individual household data from the Current Population Survey (CPS) conducted by the Census Bureau in March 2009.

This report, which is updated annually, provides more detailed information on telephone penetration to complement the information available in *Telephone Subscribership in the United States*, which is published three times a year. Specifically, this report is designed to track the effects of federal and state Universal Service Fund Lifeline and Linkup support mechanisms that defray the cost of telephone service for low-income consumers.

### **Report Highlights**

- In March 2009, penetration among low-income households (under \$10,000 annual income in 1984 dollars or \$20,732 annual income in 2009 dollars) nationwide was 90.4%. This contrasts with an overall nationwide penetration rate of 95.6% in March 2009, and represents an increase of 0.7% over the March 2008 nationwide penetration rate among low-income households of 89.7%.
- Since 1985, when the FCC first established Lifeline to help low-income households afford the monthly cost of telephone service, penetration rates among low-income households have grown from 80.0% to 90.4%.
- States that have provided a high level of lifeline support for telephone service for low-income consumers experienced an average growth in penetration of 4.6% for low-income households from March 1997 to March 2009. In contrast, states that provided a low level of lifeline support experienced an average growth of 2.9% in telephone penetration rates for low-income households between March 1997 and March 2009.
- Among states, penetration rates among low-income households ranged from a high of 97.0% to a low of 81.1% in March 2009.

This report is available in the FCC's Reference Information Center, Courtyard Level, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554. Call Best Copy and Printing, Inc. at (202) 488-5300 to purchase a copy. This report also can be downloaded from the Wireline Competition Bureau Statistical Reports Internet site at [www.fcc.gov/wcb/stats](http://www.fcc.gov/wcb/stats).

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Wireline Competition Bureau contact: James Eisner at (202) 418-0940; TTY (202) 418-0484.

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